

AMERICAN WORKER

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1925.

WHOLE NO. 744.

EMPLOYEES' STOCK OWNERSHIP PROVES PROFITABLE TO EMPLOYER

When a wage earner owns a few shares of stock in the concern his employer hopes to develop a "contented" worker. The employer also saves the commission he would pay a broker for marketing that stock.

Before the era of employee stock ownership, a broker bought the entire stock issue. His commission ranged from \$5 per \$1,000 upward. During the war these commissions were as high as \$20 and \$25, according to the risk assumed.

The broker then "peddled" this stock to the public. Employee stock ownership makes it impossible for the employer to lose. He sells directly to his employees, who are not wage commissions while he fastens workers to their jobs by their belief that ownership of the stock assures them an income.

The employee stock ownership system prevails in non-union plants where the worker has no means of becoming acquainted with stock-selling methods.

he questions the value of the stock, he jeopardizes his job. It is open to the charge of "disloyalty." He must believe his employers' sudden interest in his welfare. He buys stock at the market value, and does not know that the employer profits by the deal.

He expects to receive annual dividends, but he does not know that common stock is a speculation and carries no guarantee that dividends will be paid.

He reads that the public should be cautious in their investments, but he trusts those who would save brokerage charges and who hope to weaken his protests against shop conditions by selling him a few shares of stock on the installment plan.

Workers must understand the difference between a bond and common stock. A bond is a mortgage, a security, as witness the collapse of Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad bonds since that property passed into bankruptcy. If business justifies, and the board of

directors are so inclined, common stock holders will receive dividends. But they are not forthcoming until interest, taxes, depreciation, sinking fund, improvements and other charges are met.

If the plant goes into bankruptcy, and an assessment is made on the stockholders, small holders are forced to surrender their stock. They are "squeezed out." The wealthy stockholder pays an assessment in the hope that a reorganization will reward him for risks.

The wage earner can not afford to take such chances. If he has a surplus, it is small. This he dare not risk.

Workers are not told of the chances against them when they are urged to invest earnings in common stock.

The reason they are not told is because common stock is not a profitable investment. It saves them brokerage commissions and it minimizes a possibility that employees may unite to secure higher living standards and protection of life and limb.

EMERY, UNION BAITER, AID AMENDMENT FOES

Chicago, July 11.—Much of the opposition to the federal child labor amendment can be traced to a pamphlet written by James A. Emery, general counsel for the national manufacturers' association, said Dr. John A. Ryan of Washington at the third annual Catholic conference on industrial problems, held in this city.

Dr. Ryan said that many individuals and journals have adopted Emery's untruthful and unfounded charges "in a spirit of simple and child-like faith."

"I still believe that federal regulation is a smaller evil than the present state of unspeakable child labor which exists and which is likely to exist for many years to come if the matter is left entirely to the states," said Dr. Ryan.

"Extraneous considerations and arguments have occupied a larger place in the controversy than the facts and questions, which are really relevant. The argument is a mixture of misstatements and leading propaganda employed against the amendment has been without parallel in recent political history."

"A very large part, if not the greater part of this dishonest argument is derived from Emery's pamphlet."

DOHENY'S OIL DEFENSE BRINGS SHARP REPLY

Washington, July 11.—Edward L. Doherty, oil magnate, is being attacked on all sides for an interview in the New York Times wherein he explained why he secured the Elk Hills navy oil reserves lease from the government.

He said the lease was signed because of a possibility of war. Below the surface was discussed by the Harding cabinet.

Former Secretary of State Hughes replied that the oil lease was never brought before the cabinet for its decision.

The war scare of Mr. Doherty is a fiction, said a group of strikers who were assembled in this city for the purpose of protesting against the lease. The lawyers of the strikers said that if they did not need the lease, they would not need for the most minute enforcement of the law.

There has been no law violation by Doherty, but the state constabulary, the impression that William C. Sullivan, who is in charge of the American Federation of Labor, has informed the entire trade union movement that the purpose of the Navy's purpose is not only to lower the cost of the oil, but to make the workers of America.

NORRIS SCORES PARTY LOYALTY SAYS IT MENACES GOVERNMENT

Washington, July 11.—"One of the greatest evils of government is that so many people believe themselves up to a party, when, as a matter of fact, they ought to be independent of all parties," said United States Senator Norris, replying to a New York letter that he has "assumed" the leadership of a so-called Progressive party.

The Nebraska lawmaker said that "what the country was suffering most from was too much partisanship."

Senator Norris also took occasion to dispel the illusion so earnestly fostered by enemies of the late Senator La Follette, that he headed a third party in last fall's campaign.

"Senator La Follette, as you know, said Senator Norris, was an independent candidate for the presidency and was not the candidate of any particular party."

"Party lines rest lightly upon me," continued Senator Norris. "Under existing conditions I assume no party is necessary, but it is a mistake to regard a party but an instrumental of government. There is no such thing as a party man. I advocate, but I do not want to be associated with any political party as its leader."

whenever they believe the men nominated, and elected, would not make good officials.

"I expect to live in the future, as I have in the past, for those things in government which I believe to be right, and I will support them whether they originate with Democrats, Republicans, Progressives or men bearing any other party label. I have seen so much evil come to the country from the blind adherence to party and to party leadership, and the foolishness of 'standing by the party,' regardless of what it represents, or who leads it, that I have reached the conclusion we ought to eliminate party wherever we can; and I have advocated, for instance, in state legislatures, that everyone in the state, from governor on down to a non-partisan ballot. If I had my way, I would extend that to members of the house and senate in the national legislature."

He shall be glad to work in union with anyone, regardless of his party affiliation, if he believes in the same progressive principles. "I am not a party advocate, but I do not want to be associated with any political party as its leader."

TEXTILE WORKERS' TENT COLONY ERECTED BY BUILDING UNIONS

Willimantic, Conn., July 11.—The building trades unions of this state assisted striking textile workers to erect their tent colony in compliance with drastic health regulations by Willimantic municipal officials.

Over 2,000 workers are on strike against a 10 per cent wage reduction, although the company reported a surplus last year of \$1,200,000 after all charges and dividends were paid.

When the company evicted the workers from company houses they started to erect a tent colony. The Willimantic board of health hampered them in every way possible. It was then that the building trades unions stepped in and offered to erect a tent colony for the most minute enforcement of the law.

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STATE WAGE BOARD OPPOSED BY LABOR

Worcester, Mass., July 11.—The central committee of the state minimum wage board is a haven for and a source of trouble for the labor movement. The state federation of labor unions is being urged to take the same position. Under the law, the board must advise the state on all matters which it deems to be in the public interest. The board has no power to enforce its decisions. It is a mere advisory body. The labor movement is opposed to it because it is a source of trouble for the labor movement.

COAL MINERS ASK HIGHER WAGE; FATALITIES MOW DOWN LABOR

Scranton, Pa., July 11.—The anthracite miners' tri-district convention has adopted a plan to replace their present agreement which expires on August 31.

The new scale calls for a 10 per cent increase to tonnage men and \$1 for day men. Other features are the change from a 10-hour to a 9-hour day, a 10-hour day for employment, and the long ton, 2,240 pounds, to replace the miners' ton of 3,136 pounds.

In his opening address to the convention John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, called attention to the reputation of the anthracite industry as a large stockholder, the Pittsburgh coal company, and the Bethlehem steel company, controlled by the Bethlehem steel corporation, in which Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem steel corporation, is a large stockholder.

The operators are expected to launch a tremendous publicity campaign in the eastern coal fields, and that high wages is responsible for coal prices in the eastern coal fields, said President Lewis.

It has been demonstrated by the United States coal commission and other agencies that it is possible to produce coal at a lower cost than is being paid in New England and on the Atlantic seaboard.

The spread between the cost of production and the price of coal is so great that it has never been properly explained to the American public, and it is the belief of the anthracite operators to tell the American people that coal is a scarce commodity.

President Lewis quoted figures of the Pennsylvania department of labor to sustain his claim that the anthracite industry is the most hazardous in the land. Of the 1,150 deaths in the anthracite field 500 are killed in less than 22,000,000 tons of coal produced annually.

"It is a most terrible record of human suffering and misery," he said. "It means that within six and one-half or seven years every man in the industry will be killed or maimed. This terrible record of human suffering and misery is the result of the consideration of the operators and the American people, for whom the anthracite is a source of life."

Only today Delegate Joyce from the anthracite field of Pennsylvania died of a broken heart. He was 21 years old and had been in the industry for only a few months. The great metropolitan press analyzes the situation in the anthracite field. It is a most terrible record of human suffering and misery. It means that within six and one-half or seven years every man in the industry will be killed or maimed. This terrible record of human suffering and misery is the result of the consideration of the operators and the American people, for whom the anthracite is a source of life.

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NO CHILD EXPLOITATION

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

Every child in America should be protected against exploitation, no matter where it resides. The conservation and protection of children and child labor is the concern of every good citizen, and we must be as much interested in saving our neighbor's children as we are in saving our own.

It is for that reason that the American Federation of Labor favors the ratification of the child labor amendment. In no other way can a standardized and universal protection be afforded to the children of America. It is for that reason that we have secured the unfortunate little children of America.

I am not unmindful of the fact that the child labor amendment has been employed in bringing about the defeat of the ratification of the amendment in a number of states. Misrepresentation has been indulged in and vicious propaganda circulated. Many sympathetic people, who are in favor of child labor legislation, have been influenced and misled by the campaign.

This work is our work. It will not be completed until the organized forces of civilization, believing that the human element is above and beyond the consideration of other things, rally to the support of this great human proposal.

If these forces fail, the child labor amendment will fail. We will not be diverted from our purpose. Our cause is just. Our campaign is in behalf of the children of America, and in carrying out this duty we are moved by those sentiments of humanity which have ever influenced those who have engaged in the struggle for human rights.

Here is a cause which should afford one of the definite points of contact between the forces of civilization and child labor. Surely, if these two great forces could join wholeheartedly in the struggle for a moral purpose there is no combination of selfish interests nor organization of immoral forces which could defeat this cause.

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SELF PRESERVATION

Certain well-meaning but badly misguided folk insist that our country is in danger from immigration and naturalization should be modified to meet the objectionable conditions of the foreign-born. In considering this subject, the following points should be borne in mind:

1. Immigration is a domestic problem. International law no recognition is given to the right of a sovereign nation to refuse admission to citizenship. It is an inalienable right of sovereignty and self-preservation. The necessary law of self-preservation is in the hands of the people.

A nation which yields or delegates its right to refuse admission to citizenship, subject to the will of other nations which have no immigration laws, is a nation which is in danger of self-preservation.

No nation, and least of all America, should yield its right to refuse admission to citizenship. The Seamen's Journal.

JAPS WANTED IN GEORGIA

Atlanta, July 11.—So-called "patriotic" Georgians want the legislature to legalize Jap immigration. The "patriots" point to the efficiency of Japan as a garden rose, they say.

No mention is made of the social cost of such immigration, or the future of citizens who would be forced to meet a competition based on standards of race and living.

The agreement ends July 31. The railways have suffered because of the loss of business. The large industries are calling for a reduction of purchasing power.

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PENSION PLAN FIZZLE IS GIVEN PUBLICITY

Chicago, July 11.—Organized buyers of bonds are not permitting untrained employees in this industry to forget the pension plan of Morris & Co., when that concern was taken over by the Armour corporation.

The Morris employees contributed to the fund. They were led to believe that they had avoided the union and were satisfied with wages set by the company. They would be paid for as long as they worked for the company. The pension plan was a fizzle. The Morris employees had no pension plan. The pension plan was a fizzle. The Morris employees had no pension plan.

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NINE DEATHS INCREASE

Washington, July 11.—Nine deaths in the anthracite field of Pennsylvania were reported today, according to the United States department of labor. In that period there were 11 deaths in the anthracite field of 146 per million tons of coal produced.

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